



## Comments from Susan E. Sadler, Faculty Senate President

The University's plan to save back \$5 million dollars as budgetary buffer against economic challenges came at the close of our self-study process, leading up to the NCAA Certification site visit in February 2002. Faculty were invited to participate in discussions evaluating the self-study and to offer comments about DU's vision and the reality of Division I Athletics. However, due to either time constraints or conscious choice, participation was limited. For this reason, I have outlined below what I see to be the faculty issues regarding the NCAA Certification Review process and in the plans for improvement that have been proposed by the Steering Committee.

**<sup>a</sup> GOVERNANCE AND RULES COMPLIANCE –** Administrators are enthusiastic in their support of the athletics program, and the University is generally in compliance, except for a few minor lapses. Procedures to address and correct these are already in place.

**<sup>a</sup> ACADEMIC INTEGRITY –** We continue, and will continue, to recruit student-athletes who are competitive academically as well as athletically. According to DU admission policies, all students are admitted to the undergraduate programs according to

given significant consideration. The committee recommends (and the Athletic Department agrees) that faculty advisors are the primary advisors for all undergraduates.

The issue of full course load was examined and discussed extensively. Students may, d



substantial amounts of money. It is the overall configuration that is in balance each year.

While we certainly want (and expect) better financial performance from ~~athletics~~ and the Ritchie Center, in my mind the real questions about athletics are programmatic rather than financial. Can we make Divis



budget, was substantially greater than the average among all units.

In one sense, academic “recovery” from the two-year savings plan will be short, since the dollars saved from base operations budgets will once again be available for expenditure in FY '04. Remember that these funds have not been removed from anyone’s base budget. There is a larger and longer-term issue, though, and this is associated with our financial sustainability as growth in the population of students and related growth in tuition revenues levels off. We cannot continue to increase our numbers of students indefinitely, nor can we continue to have substantial tuition rate hikes each year. Somehow, though, we must retain a level of financial flexibility that allows us to quickly respond to the very rapidly changing educational landscape. Over the next few years, we must all work hard to develop new revenue streams and expenditure budgets that ensure continued flexibility as we achieve a stable size and configuration. This will not be easy, but it is necessary if we are to significantly improve the quality of our institution.